

Implicit and explicit examples of the phenomenon of deviant encodings

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Abstract

The core of the problem discussed in this paper is the following: the Church-Turing Thesis states that Turing Machines formally explicate the intuitive concept of computability. The description of Turing Machines requires description of the notation used for the INPUT and for the OUTPUT. Providing a general definition of notations acceptable in the process of computations causes problems. This is because a notation, or an encoding suitable for a computation, has to be computable. Yet, using the concept of computation, in a definition of a notation, which will be further used in a definition of the concept of computation yields an obvious vicious circle. The circularity of this definition causes trouble in distinguishing on the theoretical level, what is an acceptable notation from what is not an acceptable notation, or as it is usually referred to in the literature, “deviant encodings”.

Deviant encodings appear *explicitly* in discussions about what is an adequate or correct conceptual analysis of the concept of computation. In this paper, I focus on philosophical examples where the phenomenon appears *implicitly*, in a “disguised” version. In particular, I present its use in the analysis of the concept of natural number. I also point at additional phenomena related to deviant encodings: conceptual fixed points and apparent “computability” of uncomputable functions. In parallel, I develop the idea that Carnapian explications provide a much more adequate framework for understanding the concept of computation, than the classical philosophical analysis.

Keywords: the concept of computation, the concept of natural number,

1 Introduction

2 The core of the problem discussed in this paper is the following: the
3 Church-Turing Thesis (CTT) states that Turing Machines formally explicate
4 the intuitive concept of computability. The description of Turing Machines
5 requires description of the notation used for the INPUT and for the OUTPUT.
6 The notation used by Turing in the original account and also notations used
7 in contemporary handbooks of computability all belong to the most known,
8 common, widespread notations, such as the standard Arabic notation for
9 natural numbers, the binary encoding of natural numbers or the stroke no-
10 tation. The choice is arbitrary and left unjustified. In fact, providing such
11 a justification and providing a general definition of notations, which are ac-
12 ceptable for the process of computations, causes problems. This is because
13 a notation or an encoding suitable for a computation, has to be computable.
14 Yet, using the concept of computation in a definition of a notation, which
15 will be further used in a definition of the concept of computation yields an
16 obvious vicious circle.

17 I use the expression “deviant encoding” to refer to a collection of phe-
18 nomena related to the impossibility to provide a non-circular account of how
19 to distinguish an acceptable notation (i.e., omega-sequence that is an a priori
20 potential subject of computation) from a non-acceptable notation.

21 Deviant encodings appear more or less *explicitly* in discussions about what
22 is an adequate or correct conceptual analysis of the concept of computation
23 Shapiro (1982 [23]), Rescorla (2007 [20], 2012 [21]), Copeland & Proudfoot
24 (2010 [3]), Quinon (2014 [16]). Its exact form depends on the underlying
25 picture of mathematics that a given author is working with (realism, nomi-
26 nalism, etc.). Quinon 2018 ([17]) presents an analysis of how three simplified
27 standpoints in philosophy of mathematics deal with the problem of deviant
28 encodings. In **Section 1**, I present an overview of the results from this paper
29 and I also point out to possible further steps that can be taken in the formal
30 analysis of the concept of computation. In **Section 2**, I focus on my main
31 objective in this paper, that is philosophical examples where the phenomenon
32 of deviant encodings appears *implicitly*. I start by analysing those examples
33 where deviant encodings appear in an *implicit* manner in the analysis of the

34 concept of natural number. Thus, I present the position called “computa-
35 tional structuralism”. In **Section 3** and **Section 4** I point at additional
36 phenomena related *implicitly* to deviant encodings: conceptual fixed points
37 and apparent “computability” of uncomputable functions. Finally, in the
38 conclusions, I claim that the method of Carnapian explications, introduced
39 already along the lines earlier in the text, provides a much more adequate
40 framework for understanding the concept of computation, than the classical
41 philosophical analysis.

42 The paper has a rather sketchy character and instead of going into in-
43 depth analysis of one phenomenon, intentionally it only skims the surface of a
44 multiplicity of problems related to inherent circularity of such mathematical
45 concepts as *natural number* or *computation*. My intention is to emphasize
46 points worth further exploring rather than offer trustworthy solutions.

47 1. Deviant encodings

48 The expression “deviant encoding” - as used in this paper - covers all sort
49 of limitative phenomena related to the impossibility of providing a fully for-
50 mal non-circular account of an acceptable notation. Deviations refer to non-
51 computable sequences that cannot be distinguished within the general formal
52 context from sequences that are computable and can be used in computa-
53 tions. In this paper, I use the expression “deviant encoding” independently
54 of the ontological framework within which natural numbers are understood.
55 When the picture gets more fine-grained, deviant encodings can be divided
56 in several categories.

57 Quinon (2018 [17]) proposes a taxonomy of the “deviation phenomena”
58 that occur while defining the concept of computation. Analyses are con-
59 ducted for a simplified framework where:

- 60 • on the syntactic level there are uninterpreted inscriptions, where func-
61 tions are string-theoretical generating string values from string argu-
62 ments;
- 63 • on the semantic level there are interpretations that can range from
64 the conceptual content ascribed to initially uninterpreted symbols, to
65 Platonic abstract objects, and where functions are number-theoretical
66 sending numbers to numbers;
- 67 • between the two levels there is defined a function of denotation.

68 Deviations occur on each level. Thus, there exist “deviant encodings” devia-
69 tions that happen on the syntactic level; “deviant semantics” deviations that
70 happen on the semantic level; “unacceptable denotation function” deviations
71 of the denotation function.

72 The three-layer picture is inspired by Shapiro (1982 [23]) who searches for
73 an adequate account of what is an “acceptable notation”. Shapiro calls “no-
74 tation” a syntactic sequence of numerals together with a denotation function.
75 This is definitely more handy in *his context*, as he considers only computable
76 sequences of inscriptions. Shapiro’s concern is focused on defining adequate
77 ways of associating sequences of numerals with semantical values of natu-
78 ral numbers in such a way that string-theoretic functions have unambiguous
79 number-theoretic counterparts.

80 Rescorla (2007 [20]) opposes “acceptable notations” in Shapiro’s sense,
81 to what he calls “deviant notations”, and in this context speaks of denota-
82 tion functions which associate numerals (symbolic representations of natural
83 numbers) to natural numbers (abstract entities) in a non-computable way.
84 There is a continuum of such mappings. In my terminology proposed above,
85 Rescorla’s picture comprises all three types of deviations.

86 Copeland and Proudfoot (2010 [3]) indicated one of the reasons why de-
87 viant encodings might appear in the process of computation, and how using
88 a deviant encoding leads to computing of an uncomputable function. The
89 authors claim that a deviant encoding happens when the omniscient pro-
90 grammer “winks at us” to let us know when the number of Turing Machine
91 (from some standard encoding of Turing Machines), which is being currently
92 processed by some sort of Halting Machine (a machine computing which
93 Turing Machines stop on an input 0), refers to a machine that stops.

94 The basic idea of a deviant encoding is easily illustrated. You
95 can give the correct answer to any Yes/No question that I ask
96 you, if it is arranged in advance that I will wink at you (as I ask
97 the question) if and only if the correct answer is Yes. Likewise,
98 a computer is able to answer any and every question if the pro-
99 grammer is permitted to code the answer into the presentation
100 of the question. [3, page 247]

101 In this way, the Halting Machine computes the halting function, which is
102 an uncomputable function. The “wink” of the omniscient programmer gets
103 encoded in the syntactic structure of the numerals: the numerals representing

104 machines that stop, have a special form, – for instance – are even (their
105 general syntactical form can be reduced to “ $2n$ ” where “ n ” is any numeral).

106 This understanding of what are deviant encodings is clearly different from
107 what I understand by deviant encodings, as the authors mean by a deviant
108 encoding such a standard enumeration of Turing Machines where the encod-
109 ing is enriched by an extra-formal feature impersonated by the omniscient
110 programmer¹ This is a specific case of a more general problem where deviant
111 encodings refer to encodings representing natural numbers. There obviously
112 are some similarities. The authors themselves observe, while referring to
113 work of Rescorla, their understanding of what are deviant encodings, reminds
114 — not only by name — of the deviant encodings that Rescorla or Shapiro
115 speak about. Certainly, deviant encodings both in the sense of Copeland
116 and Proudfoot, and in the sense of Rescorla, relate to such a notation that
117 enables computing uncomputable functions. The notation is engineered by
118 the omniscient programmer in the case of Copeland and Proudfoot, and is
119 a result of the impossibility to distinguish computable from non-computable
120 sequences, in the case of Rescorla. Also in both cases, deviant encodings
121 lead us towards realist bases: the omniscient programmer magically knows
122 which Turing Machines (under, it seems, a standard encoding) stop in the
123 case of Copeland and Proudfoot; a realist insight into what are natural num-
124 bers – under Rescorla reading – is necessary to distinguish deviant semantics
125 from acceptable semantics (which in its turn enables making sure that the
126 denotation function is acceptable, and that, in consequence, the syntactical
127 encoding of natural numbers is acceptable).

128 There are two natural ways of developing the project of analysing the
129 concept of deviant encodings started in Quinon (2018 [17]). The first way
130 consists in studying the concept of computation as used in specific branches
131 of philosophy of mathematics. For instance, it will be interesting to look
132 closer which kind of solution for the definition of computation is adopted
133 in Platonism, what can be done in constructivism, or whether fictionalism,
134 that assumes that no mathematical objects exist, is also confronted with
135 the problem of deviant encodings. The second way consists in looking at
136 various intensionally different models of computation and analyse in which
137 form the vicious circle appears in them. There are multiple *formal* models

¹Most possibly the omniscient programmer can be formalised in terms of a Turing oracle.

138 of computation. All formal models of computation can be proved to be
139 *extensionally* equivalent: they capture the same functions, such as “identity”,
140 or “the next element of the sequence”. However, models of computation differ
141 *intensionally*: computations on abstract natural numbers are intensionally
142 different from computations performed by a machine using concrete electric
143 signals.

144 *1.1. Deviant encodings and various philosophical standpoints*

145 Quinon (2018 [17]) hypothesizes that the vicious circle persists indepen-
146 dently of the philosophical standpoint. The author provides an analysis of
147 following standpoints:

- 148 • Purely mechanical/syntactical approaches (nominalism, entwined math-
149 ematical concepts);
- 150 • Notations have meanings (mild realism);
- 151 • Semantics comes first (radical realism, platonic insight).

152 For instance, in its simplest form the problem presents itself as follows:

153 The problem in its purely syntactical version can be formulated
154 as follows. In a definition of Turing computability, one of the
155 aspects that needs to be clarified is the characterization of nota-
156 tion that can be used as an input for a machine to process. If
157 a Turing Machine is supposed to explicate the intuitive concept
158 of computability it is necessary to explain, which sequence of num-
159 erals can be used as an input without the use of the concept
160 of computability. That means, we cannot simply say: “sequences
161 that can be used as input are the computable ones” as we have
162 not yet defined what it means “to be computable”. (Quinon 2018
163 [17])

164 Its more complex occurrence can be found in an interesting case of the Se-
165 mantical Halting Problem. The Semantical Halting Problem was introduced
166 in the context of deviant encodings in (van Heuveln 2000 [28]). Imagine
167 you have encoded Turing machines with some standard non-deviant encod-
168 ing, and that you believe that symbols have meanings or interpretations. It
169 can happen that even if your syntax is generated in a recursive manner, your

170 semantics is not following any recursive rules. The Halting Machine that pro-
171 cesses encodings of Turing Machines is designed to process information on
172 syntax in an algorithmic manner. If inputted with a given non-standard enu-
173 meration of Turing machines, the machine will process those non-computable
174 encodings as it were the standard notation. Again, there is no effective way
175 of defining which semantics are acceptable and which are deviant.

176 To give an example of a philosophical position outside the strict theoret-
177 ical context, the phenomenon of deviant encodings concerns as well propo-
178 nents of concrete computations.

179 In our ordinary discourse, we distinguish between physical sys-
180 tems that perform computations, such as computers and calcul-
181 ators, and physical systems that don't, such as rocks. Among
182 computing devices, we distinguish between more and less power-
183 ful ones. These distinctions affect our behaviour: if a device is
184 computationally more powerful than another, we pay more money
185 for it. What grounds these distinctions? What is the principled
186 difference, if there is one, between a rock and a calculator, or be-
187 tween a calculator and a computer? Answering these questions
188 is more difficult than it may seem. (Piccinini 2010 [12])².

189 1.2. Deviant encodings and intensional differences in models of computation

190 The Church-Turing thesis consists of transforming a pre-systematic con-
191 cept “being intuitively computable” (an *explicandum*) into a precise scientific
192 concept “being TM computable” or “being recursive” (an *explicatum*). As
193 such, it follows the general structure of a Carnapian explication. The method
194 of explication was proposed by Rudolf Carnap, most prominently in (1950
195 [2]), as a procedure for introducing new concepts to scientific or philosophical
196 language. By the method of explication, Carnap writes,

197 we mean the transformation of an inexact, prescientific concept,
198 the *explicandum*, into a new exact concept, the *explicatum*. [2,
199 page 3].

200 The CTT treated as a Carnapian explication accounts for *intensional* dif-
201 ferences between provably *extensionally* equivalent models of computation.

²See also Piccinini (2015 [13]).

202 Depending on the clarification of the concept at hand, various models grasp
203 different aspects of what “to compute” means. For this reason, it would be
204 interesting to see which clarification fosters which way out of the deviation
205 phenomenon.

206 A preliminary list of possible cases to study is the following: Gödel (193?
207 [8]) prioritized Turing’s model as Turing’s intention to capture the pure pro-
208 cess of a mechanical procedure (Gödel believed in existence of a domain-
209 independent “absolute” concept of idealized computation); Soare (1996 [25])
210 distinguishes between models based on TM and models based on recursive
211 definitions, and Sieg (1997 [24]) discussed details of recursive model explain-
212 ing which clarification of the concept of computation Church had in mind
213 while working on theory of recursion. Shagrir (2006 [22]) investigates what
214 can be done by an idealized human who computes by means of effective pro-
215 cedures (*e.g.*, Turing (1936 [27])), Kreisel (1987 [10]) *vs.* what a machine
216 can do (*e.g.*, Gandy (1980 [7])). Shapiro (1982 [23]), Rescorla (2007 [20]),
217 Quinon (2014 [16]) look into computations performed on syntactical numerals
218 *vs.* semantical abstract natural numbers. Finally, Trakhtenbrot (1988 [26])
219 distinguishes computations defined for hardware *vs.* computations defined
220 for software.

221 **2. Deviant encodings and computational structuralism**

222 The phenomenon of deviant encodings is a theoretical result which might
223 seem not having any clear relation to the mathematical or philosophical prac-
224 tice. In this paper, I present an example known from discussions in philoso-
225 phy of mathematics, and through study of this example, I justify “why would
226 we care about deviant encodings”.

227 The main example which is infected by the problem of deviant encodings,
228 that I am going to consider in the paper is the philosophical position called
229 “computational structuralism”. Computational structuralism has been for-
230 mulated as a consequence of the problem of how to single out the standard
231 model of arithmetic. It aims at reconciling two philosophical/mathematical
232 intuitions about the foundations of arithmetic:

- 233 • Natural numbers serve to enumerate and compute.
- 234 • Natural numbers are amenable to treatment as abstract entities forming
235 a mathematical structure, in the sense of model theory.

236 The argument of computational structuralism can be reconstructed in
237 the following way. As I understand it, the main objective of computational
238 structuralism consists in providing the precise account on what is the stan-
239 dard model of arithmetic using minimal philosophical resources and minimal
240 ontological engagement (Quinon & Zdanowski 2007 [15]). In the structural-
241 ist tradition, the role of the theory used to single out the standard model
242 of arithmetic is played by *PA2*, however philosophical concerns related to
243 the possibility of quantifying over sets or collections raises doubt when it
244 comes to its conceptual thinness. Additionally, Halbach and Horsten (2005
245 [9]) list also other reasons for which *PA2* might be considered problematic.
246 In consequence, computational structuralism opts for using *PA1* which uses
247 minimal quantificational resources.

248 However, there is an important problem related to the use of *PA1*, namely
249 that it has nonstandard models. A nonstandard enumerable model of arith-
250 metic is a model which is not isomorphic to the standard model. It can be
251 bijectively mapped onto the standard structure, it falls under the axiomatic
252 description, but the order on the set of its elements differs essentially from
253 the order on the standard model. The order on the standard model is called
254 an ω -order, that is, it corresponds to the order of the natural numbers pro-
255 gression. I will call, in a usual way, N , the order on the natural number
256 progression, Z , the order of negative and positive integers, and Q , the order
257 of rational numbers. The order on a countable non-standard model starts
258 with elements ordered in N , then it is followed by a dense order of copies
259 of integers, $Q \times Z$. Computational structuralism searches for a way of over-
260 coming the difficulty caused by existence of non-standard models by adding
261 a meta-mathematical constraint about the computability of interpretation of
262 functional symbols in the language, and then it uses Tennenbaum's theorem
263 in order to single out the standard model of arithmetic.

264 **Theorem 2.1 (Tennenbaum 1959).** *Let $\mathcal{M} = \langle \mathbb{M}, +, \times, 0, 1, < \rangle$ be a enu-*
265 *merable model of PA1, and not isomorphic with the standard model $\mathcal{N} =$*
266 *$\langle \mathbb{N}, +, \times, 0, 1, < \rangle$. Then \mathcal{M} is not recursive.*

267 The contrapositive of this theorem makes its relevance more explicit:

268 **Theorem 2.2 (Tennenbaum transposition).** *Let M be an enumerable*
269 *model of first-order Peano arithmetic. If the interpretation of addition and*
270 *multiplication within M are computable then M is a standard model for arith-*
271 *metic (a model with ω -type ordering).*

272 One of the philosophically interesting consequence of the application of
273 Tennenbaum’s theorem is that the set of models singled out with its help are
274 ω -models where ω is computable (Quinon & Zdanowski 2007 [15]). Those
275 models are called “intended” and form a proper subset of standard models.

276 The vicious circle faced by computational structuralism differs from the
277 vicious circles that are the focus of Quinon (2018 [17]). There, I was only
278 concerned by the concept of natural number being indirectly involved in
279 the definition of what “to compute” means. Conceptual structuralism needs
280 to handle a slightly more elaborate idea. Its objective is to explicate the
281 concept of natural number, identified with the standard model of arithmetic.
282 Its solution consists in using the idea that natural numbers, and in particular
283 those which are defined by Peano’s axioms, are the entities used for counting
284 and computing. In consequence, natural numbers are defined in terms of
285 computations. However, this is where the vicious circle arises: one of the
286 characteristic features of the concept of computation is that computation is
287 *always* defined on some given domain.³ This domain is always identifiable
288 with the structure of natural numbers.

289 Quinon (2018 [17]) argues that independently of the philosophical stand-
290 point, each solution leads to another vicious circle. In the case of the concept
291 of computation, nesting vicious circles are unavoidable. Researchers working
292 in the area of computational structuralism, where the vicious circle is aug-
293 mented by the concept of natural number, are more optimistic. Alternative
294 ways out have been proposed. In this paper, I want to focus on the two the
295 most involved in what can be called “conceptual engineering”.

296 The first approach, proposed in, for instance (Quinon & Zdanowski 2007
297 [15]), proposes to take as basic the concept of computation defined as symbols
298 manipulation. This way of thinking qualifies as an example of application
299 of the method of Carnapian explication. Carnapian explication is used to
300 introduce new concepts to the language in some formal context. It consists in
301 transforming an intuitive concept into a formal concept shaped for a specific
302 scientific context.⁴ The intuitive concept of computation as manipulation
303 of symbols, where symbols do not need to form any specific structure, is

³As mentioned above, non-realised Gödel’s objective consisted in finding an “absolute” concept of computation, *i.e.*, such a concept of computation that does not depend on any domain.

⁴For a discussion of different explications of concepts of computation, see Quinon (2019 [18]).

304 formalised by the concept of Turing computation. Computation over strings
305 of characters is a primitive notion that does not presuppose either any other
306 notion of computation, or any independent conception of natural numbers.

307 I do not want to decide here if this argument has or does not have any
308 weak points, and if it is or does not end up in another vicious circle. The
309 method of explication provides a smooth way of providing a solution that
310 is conceptually “good enough”. There can be other ways of explicating the
311 same intuitive concept.⁵

312 The second approach, comes from (Button & Smith 2012 [1]) and (Dean
313 2014 [5]). Button and Smith claim that Tennenbaum’s theorem is of no use
314 for a philosopher who wants to distinguish the standard model from other
315 possible models of arithmetic. As the authors say:

316 Suffice it to note that our discussion of Tennenbaum’s Theorem il-
317 lustrates a familiar moral: philosophical problems which are sup-
318 posedly generated by mathematical results can rarely be tackled
319 by offering more mathematics. [1, page 120]

320 Their argument is based on the nesting vicious circles phenomenon. They
321 observe, that when the concept “natural number” is explicated, the concepts
322 used in this explication, such as “to compute” or “finite” need explications
323 in their turn, *etc.* Dean (2014 [5]) is similarly sceptical when it comes to the
324 purposefulness of using Tennenbaum’s theorem to single out the standard
325 model of arithmetic. However, differently to Button and Smith, Dean devel-
326 ops a full fledged philosophical position. It is a Putnam-style model-theoretic
327 realism for the concept of computation (see Putnam 1980 [14]). Dean claims
328 that there is no point in trying to find external arguments to distinguish
329 between various standard and non-standard models of arithmetic, nor any
330 recursive theory. We should rather use the richness of the model-theoretic
331 universe for studying structural properties of the concept of computation.
332 Dean claims that it rather shows that there exists a continuum of pairs:
333 model of arithmetic and computation in this model of arithmetic. In con-
334 sequence, the Tennenbaum’s result instead of contributing to singling out
335 the standard model of arithmetic, indicates that there exist non-computable

⁵Similar way of thinking is suggested by Halbach and Horsten (2005 [9]), however those authors rather attract philosophical attention to the Theorem and they describe several ways of using it depending on the adapted philosophical standpoint.

336 *omega*-models of arithmetic (the so called deviant or weird permutations)
337 with a corresponding concept of computation defined within the model.

338 In the two final sections of this paper, I am going to discuss two additional
339 philosophical phenomena that are related to the solutions proposed to think
340 about the Tennenbaum’s result and as such related to deviant encodings.
341 The first is the phenomenon of “conceptual fixed points”, the second is the
342 proof that each arithmetical function is provably computable in some model
343 of arithmetic.

344 **3. Natural numbers, computation, and conceptual fixed points**

345 In moral philosophy, “the moral fixed points” are those moral propositions
346 that are moral truths that need to be incorporated in a moral system. A
347 normative system which fails to incorporate such propositions is not a moral
348 system, but a normative system of some other kind. A useful example of
349 such a moral fixed point is the proposition: “It is wrong to engage in the
350 recreational slaughter of a fellow person” (Cueno & Shafer-Landau 2014 [4]).

351 Eklund (*e.g.*, 2015 [6, chapter 5]) extends this phenomenon to frame-
352 works outside moral philosophy and, as he calls it, the “thinnest” normative
353 words like “good”, “right”, “ought”. Eklund observes that in each concep-
354 tual framework, there exist concepts that are difficult, if not impossible to
355 engineer. “Truth” is one of those concepts. People care about truth, writes
356 Eklund, and they do not care about some conceptually engineered concept
357 of “truth*”. In consequence, truth is a concept that should keep a fixed
358 position in a conceptual framework, and refer to the natural kin of assertions
359 and beliefs. Similarly, “existence” is a conceptual fixed point. Eklund re-
360 jects the claim present in the contemporary metaontological debate, where
361 it is assumed “that there are alternative notions of existence that can be
362 employed”. He claims that, similarly as in the case of “truth”, a conceptual
363 framework that would result from adapting a conceptually engineered con-
364 cept of “existence” would need to adjust its other key concepts in such a way
365 that the resulting framework would be isomorphic to the initial one. Thus,
366 “One cannot, so to speak, *selectively* engineer the quantifier”.

367 Let me now observe the following relation between the conceptual fixed
368 points and fixed points traditionally analysed in mathematics in the context
369 of diagonalisation or self-reference: the conceptual fixed points as defined
370 by Eklund, are the concepts interpreted in, what we call in philosophy of
371 mathematics, their intended models. In different words, a fixed point consists

372 of a pair: *the engineered concept* corresponding to the intended meaning
373 of the concept, or to borrow Eklund’s expression – the interpretation that
374 “people care about”, and *the possible world of interpretation*, which actually
375 corresponds to the intended model of this concept. Both concepts of natural
376 number and the concept of computation are in this sense.

377 4. Computing non-computable functions

378 Dean’s solution and the context of model theoretical realism developed
379 by Putnam brings us to another philosophical phenomenon related to the
380 concept of computation. If there is no distinguished or intended model of
381 arithmetic, as Dean suggests, there is no distinguished or intended concept
382 of computation and in consequence, no encoding is deviant. Each encoding
383 corresponds to some model of arithmetic.

384 The explanation proposed by Dean is related to the meta-arithmetic
385 proofs which demonstrate that it is possible to compute non-computable
386 functions or that it is possible to prove consistency of arithmetic, that makes
387 it to the surface on the regular basis. Most recently, Hamkins has used the
388 diagonal argument to prove that there is a function, which goes through all
389 the non-standard models and computes all functions computable in any of
390 them. Such a proof has been recently published on Hamkins’ blog⁶.

391 Hamkins “proves” the following theorem:

392 **Theorem 4.1.** *There is a Turing machine T with the following property, for*
393 *any function $f : \mathbb{N} \mapsto \mathbb{N}$ there is a model of PA1 such that in this model, if*
394 *we give T any standard natural number, it halts and computes $f(n)$.*

395 In different words, the theorem states that there exists a non-standard
396 model in which the function is computed. Since it is a non-standard model,
397 a computation forces a nonstandard number of steps. I will not be getting
398 into formal details of the proof. My objective is to attract attention to
399 philosophically interesting relations between concepts.

⁶Joel David Hamkins, Mathematics and Philosophy of the Infinite, “Every function can be computable” March 2016, <http://jdh.hamkins.org/every-function-can-be-computable/?fbclid=IwAR0kuIR5V2d6PyxTwYEjfgKkRE0ZAKB9L9QleKyV3R5vasPVI76RIauSaOY>.

400 **Conclusions**

401 To sum up, this paper is about the close relation between the concept of
402 natural number and the concept of computation. It explores the idea, facil-
403 itated by stepping away from conceptual analysis and adapting the method
404 of Carnapian explication, that there exists an intended model of arithmetic.
405 Unlike Dean (2014 [5]), but to some extent following Button and Smith (2012
406 [1]), I claim that in order to find a pragmatic and executable way out of the
407 vicious circle, one needs to accept that language develops from informal to
408 formal and that concepts are first incomplete, and then those concepts ma-
409 ture⁷. If, as in (Quinon & Zdanowski 2007 [15]) one accepts that there exists
410 a workable and reasonable, conceptually rich, concept of computation un-
411 derstood as symbol manipulation, then the explication is available through
412 the application of Church-Turing thesis and yields TM-computation as its
413 result.⁸.

414 **Acknowledgments**

415 This paper belongs to a series of papers devoted to the phenomenon of
416 deviant encodings that have got initiated with the publication of the lec-
417 ture “Taxonomy of Deviant Encodings” that I had the honour to give on
418 the occasion of Martin Davis’ 90th birthday at the Computability in Europe
419 conference in Kiel in 2018. The series to this date consists of “Taxonomy of
420 Deviant Encodings” [17], this paper, and the paper “The Anti-Mechanism
421 Argument Based on Gödel’s Incompleteness Theorems, Indescribability of
422 the Concept of Natural Number and Deviant Encodings” [19], which is cur-
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⁷Similar idea is being developed in the context of open texture, see the account of philosophy of Friedrich Waismann in Makovec & Shapiro (2019 [11]).

⁸Quinon (2019 [18]) explains how to think of the CTT in terms of Carnapian explication; the idea to use the CTT to explain the concept of acceptable notation is used by Shapiro (1982 [23]); TM-computation is provably equivalent to recursivity, but also, it is possible to prove Tennenbaum’s theorem for TM-computations.

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